

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

SAB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-10 IO-10 /094 W

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R 291240Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8421

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 6189

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY, US

SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS ON POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA

1. HAARETZ CARRIES FRONTPAGE STORY SEPT 29 BY POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT MATTY GOLAN TO EFFECT THAT SECRETARY TOLD FONMIN ALLON LAST WEEK THAT ISRAEL MUST DECIDE ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA BY THE END OF NOVEMBER. GOLAN ATTRIBUTES HIS INFORMATION TO REPORT BY PRIME MINISTER RABIN TO SEPT 28 CABINET MEETING.

2. GOLAN STORY ASSERTS THAT SECRETARY TOLD ALLON THAT AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA IS VITAL IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN POLITICAL MOMENTUM IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WITHOUT SUCH AN AGREEMENT, SECRETARY REPORTEDLY ADDED, THE POSITION, THUS REDUCING CHANCES OF FURTHER PROGRESS WITH EGYPT.

3. HAARETZ ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS RABIN TOLD CABINET THAT HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT A POSSIBLE OCTOBER VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST BY SECRETARY AND THAT REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT APPEAR TO HIM UNFOUNDED.

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4. JERUSALEM POST (LANDAU), IN ARTICLE SEPT 29, CITES

"SOME WELL-PLACED SOURCES IN JERUSALEM" AS BELIEVING SECRETARY MAY INDEED VISIT THE MIDDLE EAST IN OCTOBER. THOSE SOURCES SAY SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE A BRIEF EXPLORATORY EXPEDITION RATHER THAN AN INTENSIVE SHUTTLE. LANDAU SAYS "OTHER INFORMED SOURCES", HOWEVER, DOUBT THAT THE SECRETARY WILL RETURN TO THE AREA SO SOON, PREFERRING TO ENSURE A SMOOTH BEGINNING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI INTERIM AGREEMENT BEFORE TACKLING A SYRIAN ACCORD.

5. LANDAU ADDS THAT SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS--HE SPECIFICALLY CITES DEFMIN PERES AND HEALTH MINISTER SHEMTOV (MAPAM)--ARE URGING THAT TALKS WITH SYRIA BEGIN SOON SINCE THE SINAI AGREEMENT ITSELF COULD PROVE ULTIMATELY UNSTABLE UNLESS PROGRESS IS ALSO MADE ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. LANDAU CLAIMS THAT MINISTERS ARE "UNANIMOUS" IN PREFERRING THAT TALKS WITH SYRIA CONCERN AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT RATHER THAN AN INTERIM AGREEMENT. HE CITES ONE "DOVISH" MINISTER, HOWEVER, AS STATING THAT THERE WOULD BE A MAJORITY FOR TALKS WITH SYRIA WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS EVEN WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SUCH TALKS MIGHT RESULT IN AN INTERIM ACCORD.
TOON

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